



Testimony of Carol Scully
Director of Advocacy, The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.
LCO No. 3172 H.B. 6620 An Act Promoting Competition In Contracts Between
Health Carriers and Health Care Providers

February 20, 2023

Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee: Co-Chair Representative Wood, Co-Chair Senator Cabrera, Vice Chair Representative Barry, Vice Chair Senator Anwar, Ranking Member Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Senator Lesser, Senator Marx, Representative Denning, Representative Delnicki, Representative Meskers, Representative Nuccio:

The Arc Connecticut is the oldest and the largest community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We work tirelessly to uphold our vision that every individual and family living with I/DD has access to the information, advocacy, and skills they need to support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

We are a chapter of The Arc of The United States, which has 675 chapters in 49 states and over 5,000 service locations. Nationwide, we have approximately 7,000 board members, 124,000 staff, 46,000 volunteers and collectively we serve more than 1 million people with I/DD and their family members.

In Connecticut, our 14 Arc local chapters deliver over \$100 million in jobs, supports and services to thousands of people in 162 communities. Together Arcs are the largest provider of supports and services for people with I/DD and their families in the state, providing about 96% of the services.

The Arc of Connecticut supports H.B. 6620. The consolidation of hospitals and providers into large healthcare systems stifles competition and allows healthcare prices to go unchecked. Consumers are also left with less health care choices in a limited market.

The Arc of Connecticut is concerned that these consolidations don't address the needs of persons with intellectual developmental disabilities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and persons with Autism. This vulnerable population currently has limited healthcare options in Connecticut. There is a lack of healthcare providers who are willing to treat people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, a lack of accessible medical offices and equipment including a basic essential medical necessity an examination table that lowers for persons who are in a wheelchair.

Large healthcare systems use anti-competitive contract clauses to demand higher prices without better quality. The quality of health care services is an efficient way to help control healthcare cost drivers.

Other states have acted to lower prices in a consolidated market like Connecticut's with similar legislation and that legislation is helping to control prices. Last year, this same legislation passed the Insurance Committee unanimously and the Senate by 29 to 4. But it died on the House calendar.

The Governor proposed legislation that calls for nearly identical action – Governor's Bill 983.

The Arc of Connecticut urges the committee to pass H.B. 6620 and Governor's Bill 983 to ensure fair healthcare pricing, access and equity for all residents to quality healthcare.

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